REMARKS

Upon entry of the preliminary amendments presented, Claims 1-6 remain in the application. No additional claims fee is due.

This preliminary amendment is submitted in the above above-entitled application USSN 10/784,451, filed February 23, 2004, which is a continuation of USSN 10/002,179, filed January 5, 2001. The latter application, however, was inadvertently abandoned for failing to pay an issue fee due May 17, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments presented herein, the claims in the present application have now been amended to be identical to the previously allowed claims of the inadvertently abandoned application.

Applicants have made an ernest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish their claimed invention from the applied prior art. WHEREFORE, entry of the preliminary amendments presented, consideration of the remarks made herein, and allowance of Claims 1-6 as recited in the present application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

William J. Winter Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 36,060

Ross Products Division of ABBOTT LABORATORIES Department 108140/S1 625 Cleveland Avenue Columbus, OHIO 43215-1724

Telephone:

614/624-5686

Facsimile: 614/624-3074

Docket No. 5863USC3